

HONORING SANDY GERMANY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing Sandy Germany the National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary. The Curtis-Wolverton Post Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3243 Ladies Auxiliary is welcoming Mrs. Germany to their facility on February 22 in Fenton, Michigan. This is an official visit to the State of Michigan by Mrs. Germany.

Sandy Germany was elected to her position at the 92nd National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in August 2005. Reflecting the beliefs of the Ladies Auxiliary she underscored the need to remember the sacrifices of the men and women that have fought to preserve our freedom. This belief is an underpinning of the Ladies Auxiliary as they work to preserve the memory of our courageous Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Sandy Germany is a life member of the Kichler-Pippen Auxiliary Post 5658. She is eligible to be a member through her brother, her father and her son. Her son, Curtis, is currently serving with the U.S. Army in Korea and Iraq. She has served in many positions with the Ladies Auxiliary in addition to being employed as the Town Clerk in Elberta, Alabama. She is a mother and grandmother, giving of her time, as a Life Member, to the VFW National Home for Children. Sandy also belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the life and service of Sandy Germany. I commend her for her commitment to helping our service personnel and for working to preserve the ideals that set our Nation apart from all others.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HENRY PRENDES, KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Sergeant Henry Prendes of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on Wednesday February 1, 2006. Sgt. Prendes was shot as he approached the front door of a house in southwest Las Vegas, while responding to a 911 call, at the age of thirty seven.

Sgt. Henry Prendes joined the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on February 26, 1991. He spent his first years patrolling the east Las Vegas neighborhood surrounding Charleston and Lamb Boulevards and was quickly promoted to Field Training Officer. On January 2, 1999, after working one year for the narcotics office as a detective, Henry Prendes was promoted to Sergeant. As a Sergeant he worked for the Crimes against Youth and Family Department, and later as Patrol Sergeant in the South West Area Command.

Sgt. Prendes was a native of Nevada and graduated from Las Vegas High School where he was Vice President of his senior class and captain of the football team. He is survived by his wife Dawn and two daughters from a previous marriage, Kylee and Brooke. Sgt. Prendes, along with his family, was a devoutly religious man. He engaged in bible study at home with his wife and mentored children in his spare time. Before he died, he was in the process of building a 17 acre youth camp in Montana called, Creation Camp Jesus.

Sgt. Henry Prendes could be described as everyone's friend, always having a smile on his face, and always helping those in need. Some help people because they are police officers, but Henry was a police officer to help people.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to honor the memory of Sgt. Henry Prendes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express how content I was to see President Bush recognize the national treasure that is the Dance Theatre of Harlem at a dinner and performance Monday, February 6 at the White House and to enter into the RECORD a Washington Post article dated Wednesday, February 8 commemorating the event.

In a tribute to the theatre which stands today as the first black classical ballet company, and its esteemed founder Arthur Mitchell, President Bush and many others were able to be exposed to the cultural jewel I am honored to have situated in my Congressional district.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem, founded in 1968, is a leading arts and cultural institution dedicated to the advancement and cultural enrichment of youth from diverse backgrounds. Since its founding, it has brought modern and intrepid new forms of artistic expression to audiences throughout New York City and the world—embodying the beauty of the American spirit.

Even as the performing company enjoyed international acclaim, being the first U.S. ballet company to perform in Russia and then performing in South Africa, the theatre has strengthened its roots in Harlem. Currently the school enrolls some 700 students per year in community, pre-professional and professional programs and offers courses in various dance forms ranging from ballet and tap to modern, jazz- and African dance, and even Irish step dancing. With its exceptional dancers, dazzling choreography, and cultural pride, the Dance Theatre of Harlem continues to be a beacon for all communities.

Mr. Speaker, again please join me in saluting the Dance Theatre of Harlem and expressing my gratitude to President Bush for recognizing its contributions.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 8, 2006]

EN POINTE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH A FETE FOR FOUNDER ARTHUR MITCHELL,
THE BUSHES GIVE A LIFT TO DANCE THEATRE
OF HARLEM

(By Sarah Kaufman)

There were ballerinas and cavaliers, Broadway singers and a country crooner, but it

took the Rev. Al Green to really get the party started at the White House on Monday night.

The soul man turned soul saver worked his magic on the East Room crowd, gathered to honor the Dance Theatre of Harlem and its famed founder, Arthur Mitchell.

"I-I-I, I'm so in love with you," Green rasped in his signature falsetto, arcing back like a bow about to launch its arrow.

Of course, there were many in the audience of 80 or so who could sing Green's enduring hit "Let's Stay Together" in their sleep. But was one of them President Bush? Green put him to the test.

"Ooh, loving you forever," Green purred, "is what I—" Suddenly, he thrust the microphone right up to the lips of the surprised president, who recovered enough to mouth something back.

Whatever it was could not be heard, but Green was more than satisfied.

"He said 'Nee-eee-eeed!'" squealed the amazed hitmaster, hitting even higher notes than he'd been singing. "He did! He said 'Neeeee!'" After laughter and applause for the president's grace note, the set then became a singalong—was that Karl Rove joining in?—and then a dance-along, after Mitchell, a former star of the New York City Ballet, pulled Laura Bush up onstage.

President Bush, apparently pumped up after parrying to Green's thrust, followed suit, taking with him Shirley Massey, wife of Walter Massey, president of Morehouse College.

"We got the president up onstage!" exclaimed Mitchell afterward. Not a man who ordinarily likes to share the spotlight, Mitchell nevertheless gave Bush points for effort, if not for style. "He did really well," Mitchell said. "He was tapping his foot, and . . . moving. You know."

Mitchell is no stranger to the White House—he says he has been invited there by every president since John F. Kennedy. He's been there so often he knew many of the waiters by name. But this night was different. The dinner and performance by members of the Dance Theatre of Harlem and others were the work of entrepreneur and philanthropist Catherine Reynolds, chairwoman of the board of the predominantly black ballet company. The show will air this summer on PBS.

"What better place to showcase Dance Theatre of Harlem during Black History Month than the White House?" she said. "It's a ballet company in the midst of Harlem—that in and of itself is so American."

The presidential affair, she said, sprang from a conversation she had a few months ago with Laura Bush about the ailing company, on hiatus for the past year and a half because of rising debt.

Reynolds said the first lady asked, "How can I help?" Reynolds had her answer ready, and the result was a cozy little black-tie dinner in Mitchell's honor, with the guests seated at intimate round tables mounded with roses. Among the invited: Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, undoubtedly relieved to be anywhere but in the Senate hot seat where he'd spent the day; donors and arts officials such as the Ford Foundation's Susan Berresford, Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser and Lonnie Bunch, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture; and a contingent of the black elite, such as "60 Minutes" correspondent Ed Bradley and Spelman College President Beverly Daniel Tatum.

The menu favored creamy comfort foods: puree of parsnip soup, cheesy grits and spinach alongside roast kobe beef, a yellow pepper and avocado terrine, and whipped-cream-dolloped lemon custard cakes with coconut ice cream and a blackberry-ginger sauce,